

SONGS AND MADRIGALS

OF THE

FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

300 Copies printed, of which this is No. 151

A COLLECTION

OF

SONGS

A N D

MADRIGALS

BY

ENGLISH COMPOSERS

OF THE CLOSE OF THE

FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

PREPARED FOR THE MEMBERS OF

THE PLAINSONG AND MEDIÆVAL MUSIC SOCIETY.



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PREFACE.

The Songs and Madrigals contained in this volume, and exemplifying the state of English Musical Art at the close of the fifteenth century, are taken from MSS. in the British Museum, which are well known to antiquarians but not to musicians in general. It is hoped that the specimens here given may create a wider interest than now exists in Mediæval English Music, and so justify the publication by degrees in extenso of all our early music still in existence. Some of the Madrigals were reproduced by Stafford Smith in the year 1779, but his translation of the old notation is often defective and unreliable. No. 7, by King Henry VIII., is given in the form in which it appears on fol. 53 of Add. MSS. 31922 as an instrumental piece; but on fol. 49 of the same MS. a shorter version is given with words as the Madrigal—"If love now reigned." The same MS. contains a version of the song "Ah! the sighs" as the middle part of a Madrigal, but with the melody somewhat modified to suit the counterpoint.

The words of the Madrigals have not been altered except in spelling and, in one instance, where a modification was necessary for a modern audience. They are not reproduced on the Plates of the ancient notation, as, unless this were done in absolute facsimile, no value would attach to the reproduction. The text is often very irregularly written in the original, but in the translation the syllables have been allocated as closely as possible to their proper notes. The words of the Songs have been more modernized, and verses omitted; they are therefore printed below in their original form. The accompaniments to the Songs have been written specially for this work by Dr. C. W. Pearce.



SONGS AND MADRIGALS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.



I.—THE MUSIC.

N the Original Manuscript the songs are unbarred, and unaccompanied.

The melodies are share-this is The melodies are characterized generally by a natural and graceful musical expression of the words, whilst their diatonic simplicity will be particularly grateful to ears unaccustomed to anything but the chromatic gorgeousness of modern music. Three of the seven are distinctly pastoral; viz:--" Kitt hath lost her Kye," "In May," and "The little pretty nightingale." Their music might almost be described as the counterpart in sound of some of the well-known Arcadian scenes of Watteau. The remaining four are more or less of an amorous nature, and express the love sighs as faithfully as though the music had been written but yesterday. Several of the songs have such an extended vocal range that it is somewhat difficult to assign them to any particular kind of voice (see "In May"); hence it is not unlikely that these may have been written specially for some particular singer of the day, a circumstance which has tended to exercise a power over composers of all times; and from which influence musicians of the present time are not exempt. In one or two places, the leap of a fourth is successively taken twice in the same direction, thus forming the interval of a seventh with but one note between its two-a melodic progression which is regarded at the present day as being rather unvocal.

The long pneuma-like prolongation of the last syllable of each verse may be construed in two ways; either

- (1) The concluding bars of melody might have been "vocalized" with the final vowel of the last word in each verse, or,
- (2) The last line of words might have been repeated by being sung to the concluding bars of music left in the original with no words beneath them.

In this edition, a line of continuation indicates the first method, and, for the sake of those singers who prefer the second method, the last line of words has been printed in smaller type *above* the music.

The symphonies and accompaniments have been written especially for this Work, the style of harmonization being of course strictly diatonic.

It will be interesting to note that several of the songs, "Kitt hath lost her Kye," "In May," and "Alone I live," have a formal design which anticipates, in a great measure, the Aria form of Handel and his cotemporaries, *i.e.*, with a first and second part, followed by a Da Capo al Segno: the others are in the short Ballad form resembling that of a Hymn Tune.

The Madrigals will be found interesting to the student of Musical History, from the fact that they exhibit in a striking degree the every-day practice of 15th Century composers. These musicians were contrapuntists rather than harmonists, *i.e.*, they were in the habit of adding part to part, melody against melody, rather than accompanying one principal air or tune with a mere succession of chords. Although the very act of causing two or three independent parts or melodies to be sung together necessarily produced a succession of more or less complete chords, the harmonic total thus obtained was regarded as incidental or secondary, and subservient to the interest excited by the individual and simultaneous procession of several distinct melodies; each of which, if heard apart from its fellows, might be looked upon as almost a tune by itself.

Music written in such a manner may, at first sight, appear to afford the composer but little scope for either variety or expression. It must not, however, be supposed that the several parts or melodies were flung together with no regard for *ensemble* effects. The device of *Imitation* alone was quite enough to ensure not only variety, but also sympathy, cohesion, and unity amongst the parts. By its means, one part might rest for awhile, the others still

going on; and the fresh entry of the part temporarily silenced, now being heightened in effect by the use of a figure of melody previously sung by one of the other voices, could not fail to be interesting to the listener as well as to the performer. Nor was this all to be gained by Imitation. continual thinning and thickening of the music caused by one or more voices resting and re-entering was, in itself, a means of imparting a pleasant variety of light and shade to the composition; whilst the emphatic confirmation of the sentiment of the words, caused by their reiteration in successive imitative entries, was a means of obtaining a unanimity of expression not to be gained in any other way. The same words repeated by voice after voice will often produce a greater effect of unanimous expression of feeling, than if heard in one simultaneous utterance. Such an effect was afterwards to be carried to its highest development in the Vocal Fugues of later masters as Handel, J. S. Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and others. The less artistic (because more easily obtainable), devices of Sequence and Pedal-point, also find exemplification in these pages. A Sequence would probably be amongst one of the first artifices used by a composer in any age; for, by this means, he would seek to prolong and continue an idea by repeating it upon a higher or a lower part of the scale than that in which he originally conceived it.* A Drone or Pedal Bass may also be counted as one of the earliest-used resources of polyphony; it being so easy to repeat or sustain one note at the same pitch, whilst another voice was made to sing a flowing melody against it by what, in after times, for the sake of distinction, came to be called oblique motion. Such an obvious and commonplace device-afterwards however, to be invested with so much poetic grandeur by the great composers before-mentioned, in the "Organpoints" of their Fugues, Oratorio Choruses, and other works—is to be found, perhaps, in its most rudimentary form in the first verse of "Jolly Rutterkin" (see the first bar after the refrain.)

A further and highly fruitful source of expression within the limited means of 15th Century composers lay in the constant change of rhythmical flow—from duple to triple sub-division of the semibreve pulsation, or *vice versa*—of which the Madrigals in this book afford so many interesting examples.

See, for example, the first page of "I love, loved, and loved would I be," in which are two instances of Sequence.

A still more important element of composition was by no means unknown to musicians of this period, viz:—Form or Design. That very early formal design, the Rondo, is very clearly exemplified by two of the Madrigals, "Jolly Rutterkin" and "Margaret Meek," in which one principal theme constantly comes round again and again, by being recapitulated after the singing of certain episodical matter. Necessary relief and contrast are obtained by the intervening episodes; whilst the repetition of the principal theme, which gets more and more familiar to the ear each time it is heard, is desirable in order that oneness of style and purpose may prevail instead of mere patchwork, or irrelevant ramblings. The more modern cyclical musical designs which depend entirely upon modulation, or change, balance, and proportion of key-relationships, we may not reasonably expect to meet with in these early compositions; yet we do find occasionally the recurrence of several figures of melody, and even the prevalence of certain harmonies standing to each other quite in the modern relation of tonic and dominant (see page 24), which are enough perhaps to show that the minds of 15th Century musicians were beginning in a slight degree to be influenced by the great principles of design which afterwards took more tangible shape, and to this day govern the feelings and ideas of composers.

As already pointed out, the harmonic results of music written in the Contrapuntal Epoch are but secondary. Every student knows that, as a rule, only triads and first inversions of the same are to be found in music of the "horizontal style." Still, these Madrigals furnish evidence of a reaching forward after a more highly developed style by the occasional use of harmonic combinations, which can only be regarded from a modern or fundamental view as so many direct or inverted Dominant Discords (see "The day day dawns"). Again, the dwelling upon certain mere chords (as in "I love, loved") during the prevalence of which harmonies all melodic interest and separate part-individuality ceases, can only point to the anticipation of the "perpendicular style" in music. Such a yearning after harmonic effects for their own sake is continually to be detected in the Cathedral Music of those Early English Ecclesiastical writers who prepared the way for Henry Purcell, whose penetrating genius anticipated even those harmonic combinations which sound fresh to ears of to-day when met with in the most recent compositions of the musicians of the present time.

One of the greatest objections to music of the Contrapuntal Era—an objection

which would appear to be raised by modern musicians who do not exhibit much sympathy with the feeling and manner of four or five centuries ago-may be said to be occasioned by the constant appearance of what, at first sight, might be called False Relation, viz: the inflection of a note by an accidental taking place in a different part to that in which the note was first sounded in its normal pitch. Frequent examples might be quoted from all the Church and Madrigal writers of the Elizabethan period onwards as late as Dr. Croft, whose Anthem "We will rejoice," furnishes as unpleasant a specimen as may be found in any work of his predecessors for two centuries. False Relation at the present day is defined as the awkward juxtaposition of distinct tonal-systems, caused by two of the parts of successive chords proceeding in different keys at the same instant, or nearly so. But as key-relationship (as we understand the term) was unknown in the 15th Century, the many examples of what may at first appear like False Relation in these Madrigals will require a little explanation. It is this. We are here dealing with music written according to the Ecclesiastical system of tonality in some one or other of the Church Modes, where in certain cases an optional B flat (or B molle as it was called), was allowed to be sung instead of the normal B natural or B durum. introduction of this optional note was merely for the sake of rendering the particular part in which it occurred, smoother and easier to the singer as well as more melodious to the listener. By its means the rugged interval of the augmented 4th (or tritone) was dispelled, and various other inelegancies of melodic progression were softened and improved, although sometimes—when occurring in the midst of a sequence*—the tritone was not considered offensive to the ear (see "I love, loved" treble part of last two bars in second score). It mattered not if one part were singing B flat, and another part came in with B natural on almost the next syllable, provided that the melodies of these two parts were in themselves smooth and elegant. And since B natural and B flat could both be said to belong to the same mode—one being normal, the other optional—there could be no False Relation, at any rate in the modern sense of the term. The primary and all-pervading provision for melodic propriety, as something quite independent and apart from harmonic result, makes itself felt in these Madrigals in many other ways, by the apparent

^{*} See "Six Lectures on Harmony," by the late Sir G. A. Macfarren, Mus. Doc., M.A., formerly Professor of Music in the University of Cambridge. Second Edition, pp. 58-9.

disregard of the ordinary first rules of Counterpoint; notably those which forbid the progression of consecutive 5ths and 7ths and the use of discords by leap.* It does not follow, however, that 15th Century composers wrote with an utter defiance of rule, nor will it be consistent with history to regard their compositions as some sort of precedent for much that is wilful and lawless in music of the present day. It should be remembered that all Art-rules follow rather than precede Art-practice; it being manifestly impossible to regulate anything which does not already exist. Hence many experiments in Part-writing had to be made before teachers and theorists could formulate rules for the guidance of students in Musical Composition. It is therefore in no spirit of captious fault-finding, that some of the more important deviations from rule have been here pointed out. These seeming irregularities may serve to illustrate the experimental nature of the Early Polyphonic School; and it may also be both interesting and helpful to observe how far they are in accordance with the more successful breaches of established rule to be met with, not only in the works of modern composers, but in those of John Sebastian Bach and other classical writers.

Several of the Madrigals will be found somewhat difficult in performance on account of the unusual and unfamiliar rhythmical grouping of the notes. Evidently those who sang from the old unbarred single parts of the original MS., were in the habit of observing strict time in the most uncompromising manner possible, uninfluenced by what their fellow-singers might be doing, and marking the accents according to the natural rhythmical flow of the poetry. A stedfast and rigid counting of two or three in a bar is really all that is necessary for an accurate performance of the music as far as time is concerned.

In unbarred music, an accidental would necessarily affect only the note before which it was placed. This will account for the several additional accidentals of a contradictory nature, which become necessary when the music is barred. All accidentals which do not occur in the original MS. are, in this Edition, printed above the notes they are assumed to affect. A few

^{*} See, for instance, the consecutive 5ths between the two lower parts in the last bar but two of every verse of "Margaret Meek," and also those in the second bar of the third verse of the same Madrigal. See also the consecutive 7ths between the two upper parts of the first two bars in the third score of "I love, loved," page 23. The two-part Madrigal "The farther I go" is also full of irregularities. Amongst many other instances, the use of a discord by leap in the second bar of the first score on page 22 deserves notice.

additional accidentals have been suggested here and there, with the view of affording occasional relief to the old modal tonality; but these additions have, in all cases, been placed over the notation, so that they may not be taken as part of the original. Such suggestions can, however, be either wholly or partially accepted, or, they may be entirely disregarded, according as taste or feeling may prompt.

These accidentals have been added in accordance with the rules of Musica ficta (lit. false or feigned music), which was a term used to express certain notes which, it is assumed, were chromatically raised or lowered a semitone in actual performance, but which were not accidentally sharpened or flattened in the notation of the written parts. These alterations, said to have been made by singers, and intended and sanctioned (though not indicated) by composers, may have come into use for the two reasons of harmonic propriety, and of melodic smoothness. Without these additional but unwritten inflections (i.) certain dissonant harmonic combinations (or chords as we should now call them) would have been called into existence, which the system of timing then in vogue would have rendered more or less offensive to the ear; and (ii.) many passages of melody would have presented here and there rough edges and sharp corners, ungrateful alike to both singer It is, of course, very doubtful whether these accidentals, as added in this volume, are actually required or not; many musicians of the present day who are skilled in reading old music think that there was no fixed practice for their use.* Our ears have grown so accustomed to modern tonality, that it is exceedingly difficult for us to realize the old tonal feeling which possessed those who sang and wrote four centuries since. difficulty before us, the following quotations from Mediæval theorists, extracted from a Paper entitled "The Flat, Sharp, and Natural," by Mr. Frederick Niecks, which was published in the Proceedings of the Musical Association, Sixteenth Session, 1889-90, may prove interesting if not helpful.

JOHANNES DE GARLANDIA, who probably wrote in the second half of the 12th Century, is already quite on the modern standpoint in dividing all tones into semitones. He says: "Falsa musica (which is very necessary for

^{*} See remarks by Mr. T. L. Southgate on page 98 of "Proceedings of the Musical Association, Sixteenth Session, 1889–90."

instruments, especially for the organ) arises when we take a semitone instead of a tone, or the reverse. Every tone is divisible into two semitones, therefore the number of the signs which indicate the semitone may be increased in all the modes."*

Franco of Cologne at the end of the 12th Century writes: "When the discantor cannot get useful consonances by right music (recta musica) he may at his pleasure make false music (musica falsa)."

Walter Odington, who wrote somewhat later, in the first half of the 13th Century, does not go quite so far as Johannes de Garlandia, but he adds to B½, which formed part of the regular system, the notes F sharp, C sharp, and E flat, saying "the double B [B‡, B½] effects, according to the moderns, a double F [F‡, F‡] and a double E [E‡, E½]; and the double F effects a double C [C‡, C‡], in order that for both, perfect fifths may be found."

He explains also how the raising and lowering of a note is indicated respectively by a square $\frac{1}{2}$ and a round $\frac{1}{2}$, and adds: "The two B's belong to the monochord; the other alterations are called by musicians falsa musica not because they contain anything dissonant, but because they are outside the disposition of the monochord, and were not used by the ancients."†

Johannes de Muris, a writer of the 14th Century, says that "the false mutations (mutationes falsæ, viz., the chromatic alterations other than B½) are contrary to the character of plain-song, but that it is otherwise with mensurable song" (by which we have to understand 'harmonic music').

Prosdocimus de Beldomandis, who wrote at the beginning of the 15th Century, says that "the chromatic semitones of *musica ficta* were used for no other reason than to produce a more pleasing harmony."

In an Italian MS. of the 14th Century occur the words "False music ought not to be indicated (*Non debet falsa musica signari*), and the Italian Pietro Aron says in "Il Toscanello in Musica" (the first edition of which appeared in 1523), "Accidentals are not needed by learned and practical singers, but are

^{*} Introductio Musice Secundum Magistrum Garlandia in Vol. I., p. 166, of Coussemaker's "Scriptores de musica medii ævi. It is worthy of notice that in the Madrigal "Jolly Rutterkin" (page 1, score 1, bar 2) the use of B p and B p occurs in the same bar. This is an interesting instance of a fifteenth Century composer disregarding the strict limits of the diatonic modal tonality.

[†] Fratris Walteri Odingtoni De Speculatione Musice, in Vol. I., page 215, of Coussemaker's "Scriptores."

inserted only for inexperienced and unintelligent ones." Both Zarlino and Zacconi, in the latter half of the 16th Century, write much to the same effect.

Dr. Carl Proske, the editor of "Musica Divina" gives the following rules for supplying the necessary accidentals of Musica ficta:—

- (i.) The perfect cadence at the end of a piece, and those occasionally to be found in the course of it, must have one part proceeding to the final by a semitone (or, as we should say, the leading note going to the tonic). The last chord of a perfect cadence must end with a major third (or, as we should say—in dealing with a modern minor key—the "Tierce de Picardie" should be made use of).
- (ii.) To avoid the false relation of the tritone (mi contra fa), the augmented fourth and diminished fifth have to be modified wherever they occur.
- (iii.) When (as in our scale of C) the note B is preceded by A, and descends immediately afterwards, this B is to be flattened, especially if it returns to A. The same thing takes place in the scale of F, with one flat in the signature where E is flattened in similar circumstances.
- (iv.) In two parts a minor sixth proceeding to the octave (each part moving a second) is often changed into a major sixth.

CHRISTOPHER SIMPSON, on page 40 of the 1678 edition of his "Compendium of Practical Musick," distinctly states that, except in the perfect cadence, the use of the accidentally raised seventh of the minor mode "is disputable, as many times it happens in musick; in which doubts the Ear is always to be Umpire."

An *instrumental* bass part has been added to the two-part Madrigal "The farther I go," in the style and tonality of the voice parts. This is intended for the violoncello. One or more instruments should be used according to the number of voices employed; in no case should the voice parts themselves be duplicated instrumentally. It is possible that this may originally have been a three-part Madrigal, of which the under voice-part has been lost. No additional accidentals have been suggested for the voice parts of this Madrigal; but it will be quite easy to add a few according to the rules of *musica ficta* given above, if any such inflections should be thought desirable in performance when the voices are *unaccompanied* by the added instrumental bass part.

In the place of an ordinary accompaniment, a compressed pianoforte score has been added, which represents faithfully the vocal parts so far as the relative

time value of their notes is concerned; but which is written entirely in modern notation, *i.e.*, in notes of such time value as will render the proper rate of movement of the music perfectly intelligible to the uninitiated musical reader. With this object, the minim has been adopted as the average unit beat note in place of the semibreve of the original notation. This method of printing the compressed score is in accordance with a similar plan pursued by the editors of "Dutch, Latin, French and Italian Masters of the XV. and XVI. Centuries," Berlin, M. Bahn, 1873.

My best thanks are due to my friend and master Dr. E. J. Hopkins, organist of the Temple Church, and Vice-President of the Society, for many valuable suggestions in connection both with the foregoing remarks and with the preparation of the music for the press.

C. W. P.



II.—THE NOTATION.

For the purpose of enabling readers to verify the translations into barred music of the examples in *facsimile*, a few remarks are necessary.

In modern notation every note equals two of the next lower denomination, but musicians of the 13th Century had formulated the rule that the normal note contained three of those of next less value, so that the Long contained three Breves, and the Breve three Semibreves. The converse of the lengthening power of the dot had therefore to be effected, and the triple value of the note was reduced to duple by grouping it with a smaller one, so that the two together were equal to the full value of the perfect note. Hence Triple time came to be called Perfect, and Duple time Imperfect, when in the 15th Century time signatures came into use, and the former was expressed by the circle, the symbol of perfection, and the latter by the semicircle. Before the invention of the Italian indications of tempo, musicians were also obliged to adopt an absolute time value for each note, so that in order to show that a composition was to be taken in quick time, a line was drawn through the time signature to signify that the notes were of half their normal length. In the modern versions now given this distinction is expressed in the usual way, and not by using notes of half value.

The rules of the 13th Century composers for time measurement were of extreme complexity, especially for the *Ligatures*, *i.e.*, note-groups either in the form of rhomboids or of notes joined by strokes, but by the date of the present specimens they had become much simplified. The Imperfect time signature reduced the notation almost to our present system, but when in Perfect time, the notation followed the old rule of a breve containing three semibreves, except when reduced a third by grouping with a semibreve.

The forms of the notes, except for being angular, are the same as the modern, with the exception of the Long, which is a Breve with a tail, and of the rhomboidal Ligatures. The notes indicated by these rhomboids are those of the lines or spaces on which the figure begins and ends; the intervening ones are of no account whatever.

The greater notes were either written full or hollow, according to the taste of the scribe, but if written full, the crotchet (being of the same shape as the minim),

and the quaver and semiquaver were in red. If the greater notes were written hollow, then the lesser ones were in black, as in our modern notation, and as in the facsimiles given, some of which in the original MS. (Add 5465), were in full (black) and red. But breves, semibreves, and minims, were also written in red or full (black) to indicate: 1°, that the phrase was in triplets if they occurred in a duple measure, and either with or without a small 3 before the phrase; 2°, that they were in duple time if occurring in a triple measure, and 3°, that they were of only half the time-value of the rest of the composition. All these varieties of the use of the red or full notes occur in "This day day dawns," where slight differences in tempo are shown by the varying use of 1° and 3°.

Rests followed the rules of the notes, and the student will perceive that here also, if in perfect time, a following small note reduced the value of the rest by a third.

Longs, breves, and semibreves, were also united in Ligatures, in survival of the earlier forms of notation, and to indicate sometimes that two or more notes were sung to one syllable. The notes might be either square, joined by position or by a tail, or in rhomboidal form as explained above.

The rules for the interpretation of Ligatures are as follows, the value of the notes varying according to the time signature (vide Pl. A). It must be remembered that in Perfect time a note was diminished one-third by a following note of the next lower value.

THE FIRST NOTE.

- 1°. If without a tail and higher than the next, it is a Long(a).
- 2°. If without a tail and lower than the next, it is a Breve (b).
- 3°. If it have a downward tail on the right, it is a Long (c).
- 4°. If it have a downward tail on the left, and be either higher or lower than the next, it is a *Breve* (d).
- 5°. If it have an upward tail on the left, then it and the following note are both Semibreves (e). This rule, therefore, governs final and intermediate notes, except when in very rare instances it conflicts with rules 9 and 10, when only the first note is a Semibreve.

THE LAST NOTE.

- 6°. If square and lower than the preceding note, it is a Long(f).
- 7°. If rhomboidal and either higher or lower, it is a Breve (g).
- 8°. If without a tail and higher than the preceding note, it is a Breve (h).
- 9°. If with a downward tail on the right, it is a Long (i).
- 10°. If with an upward tail on the right it is a Breve.

The intermediate notes are all Breves (k), except when they have downward tails on the right, when they are Longs, or, when with an upward tail on the left they come under Rule 5 (l).

All notes may have their value increased one-half by a dot.

A stroke joining two notes is not accounted a tail. If one note stand directly above the other it is the lower that is first sounded.

The ordinary time signatures, providing for the sub-division of the Breve, are as on Plate A. It will be observed that a dot inserted in the circle or semicircle makes the semibreve contain three minims. The minim and lesser notes always contain two of the next lower value.

The sub-division of the Long was provided for by prefixing to the time signature a stroke, or two uneven strokes, drawn through three spaces, to signify that the Long contained three Breves—Lesser Mode perfect. Without any stroke or with two even ones through two spaces, the Long contained two Breves—Lesser Mode imperfect.

In like manner, three strokes through three spaces, divided the *Maxima*, or Double Long, into three Longs—*Greater Mode perfect*, and two *even* strokes through three spaces, signified its normal double value—*Greater Mode imperfect*.

The Greater and Lesser Modes were prefixed to any of the time signatures which indicated the sub-division of the Breve.

It will be of assistance to students to call attention to a few peculiarities in the Madrigals besides those mistakes in the MSS. which are noted on the Plates. These errors, which are all connected with *Rests*, are so plainly due to the scribe, that they were probably detected by the singer without any trouble.

"Jolly Rutterkin."—This is in perfect time and it will accordingly be noticed that the Long rest at the beginning of the first alto part, verse IV., is equal to two breves each containing three semibreves.

- "Margaret Meek."—The time signature is entirely omitted in the MS.
- "This day day dawns."—By an error of the scribe the time signature of only the treble part has the line through it signifying that the notes are to be taken double their normal pace. At A the time changes to perfect, and from there to B the notes are of half their previous value, because written full. The rests at C, which remain in imperfect time, prove this peculiarity, while the following full notes are also of half value and in perfect time, though preceded by no time signature. On the other hand, the full notes at D preceded by a 3 are of their full value, except in so far that they are triplets against rests at G, in imperfect time. The exigencies of modern notation require that the bar completing the triplet phrase ending E should be considered in connection with the first note of the phrase. An apparent readjustment of the rests at F also becomes necessary, but it will be found that the time is strictly preserved throughout.
- "The farther I go."—The final note-form in all the parts is translated as a single note. In all the Madrigals great diversity occurs in the form of the final note, which differs often in the several parts and verses. It would appear, therefore, as if it were held ad libitum.
- "I love, loved, and loved would I be."—The treble throughout and the bass of the verses are written, as in the facsimile, without a flat signature, but there can be little doubt that the flat was intended to apply to all the parts.
- "I love, I love, and whom love ye."—Only the first treble and alto have the signature for Imperfect time with prolation, which might be translated as $\frac{6}{2}$, but the second treble has equivalent notes in triplets, as will be seen on the repetition of the phrase at A, which also proves the inaccuracy of the scribe in the omission and insertion of rests. The different verses of this Madrigal in the original show many slight discrepancies. The time signature is in red and therefore apparently applies only to the full notes, as the first hollow minim is certainly in imperfect time without prolation.

H. B. B.



III.—THE MANUSCRIPTS.

No. 58 of the Appendix to the Royal MSS. in the British Museum, contains the voice parts (most of them apparently of solos for a tenor voice), and a few instrumental parts and scores for the virginals and lute, of an interesting collection of pieces by some little-known musicians of the beginning of the 16th Century. The MS. cannot have been written before 1503, if the song "Now fayre fayrest off euery fayre" alludes, as is supposed, to the marriage of Margaret, sister of Henry VII., with James IV. of Scotland, which took place in that year. A note on f. 1 in an early, almost contemporary, hand connects the volume with the diocese of Exeter.

Among the principal compositions are:—an instrumental piece in three parts by John Ambrose; "Petyously constrayned am I," by Dr. Coper; "Now marcy Jhesu I wyll amend"; Frere Gastkyn wo thow be" (treble part only), by Raff Drake; "Egredientem de templo"; part of a Mass beginning "Et in terra pax" and ending with the "Agnus Dei"; a Hornpipe in score, by Hugh Astone; "My Lady Careys dompe"; "My Lady Wynkfylds rownde"; "The Emperorse pavyn"; "The Kyngs pavyn"; "The Kyngs Maske"; "The Whele of Fortune" (with the words); "The Duke of Somersetts dompe" in lute notation; "Thys endere nyzth I saw a syzth," with chorus; "My lytelle fole is gon to play," in three parts; etc.

(Small obl. Quarto. 58 folios.)

Additional MS. 5465 contains an equally interesting collection of part-songs, most of them for three voices, with a few for two and for four voices, by composers of the end of the 15th Century. The volume is supposed to have belonged to Robert Fairfax, the composer, whose arms are inserted in the initial letters of one of his compositions (p. 26 b.); it certainly belonged to Charles Fairfax in 1618, after which it passed into the hands of Ralph Thoresby of Leeds, the Antiquarian. Among the most considerable pieces are:—"What causyth me wofull thoughtis," for two voices, by William Newark; "Yowre counturfetyng," the bass part of which is marked "ad placitum"; "Sumwhat musyng," by Roberd Fayrfax; "I loue I loue and whom loue ye," by Syr Thomas Phelyppis; "A my dere son sayd Mary"; "Jhesu mercy how may this be," for four voices, by Browne; "Affraid alas and whi

so sodenli"; "Woffully a raid my blode man for the ran," by William Cornyssh, junior; "A gentill Jhesu," for four voices, by Sheryngam; "Woffully a rayd," for four voices, by Browne; "My feerful dreme," by Gilbert Banastir; "A blessid Jhesu," by Richard Davy; "Margaret Meke," by Browne; "Ay be sherewe yow," by William Cornyssh, junior; "Hoyda hoyda joly rutterkyn," by the same; "From stormy wyndis," by Edmund Turges; etc. *

Most of the pieces are headed with ornamental initial letters, in blue and red. (Quarto, 124 folios.)

Additional MS. 31,922, consists of a collection of part-songs, mostly for three voices, and instrumental pieces, by Henry VIII. and other English composers, who lived not later than the early part of his reign. From internal evidence the collection must have been compiled after 1511, and the present copy was perhaps made at the end of the king's reign. Among the vocal pieces are:--" Pastyme with good companye," "Helas madam cel que jeme tant," "Grene growith the holy," by the king; "Blow thi horne hunter," "Thow and I and Amyas," by Cornish; "Quid petis o fili," in two parts, by Pygott; "Englond be glad, pluk up thy lusty hart," "My thought oppressed," "Sumwhat musyng," "Hey troly loly lo mayde whether go you," by anonymous composers. The principal instrumental pieces are a "Fa la sol," extending over ten pages, by an anonymous composer; two three-part compositions by Flude, elsewhere called J. Fluyd [al. Lloyd?], described as "in Armonia graduat," to the tenor of one of which pieces is appended the words "Iste tenor ascendit a gradu epadoico (sic) in semitonium et descendit in diatessaron cum diatonico"; a three-part piece by Dunstable, with the following explanatory lines (!), added to the four notes of which the quasiground tenor appears to consist:—"A dorio (sic) tenor sic ascendens esse videtur, quater per genera tetracordum refitetur"; and a three-part composition by Fayrfax, at the end of which is written "Paremese tenor—Canon. Pausa facta

J. T. M.

^{* &}quot;I love, I love, and whom love ye" and "This day day dawns" have evidently a political meaning. The former may have been put forth as a feeler to test public opinion in the year 1460, when the Duke of York was about to claim the throne in place of the imbecile Henry VI. From the careful suppression of the name of the flower it may be placed in the first half of the year, before the Yorkist party had come into power by the Battle of Northampton.

The latter song is the complement of the other, and probably appeared early in 1461, when Edward IV. was proclaimed King in London, though perhaps the allusion to the flower-de-luce might indicate the year 1471, when the King of France was helping the Lancastrian party.

in tenore de numero perfecto secundum prohemium percantetur omnis litera arsum (Sic) et thesum per naturam sinaphe."

This volume appears to have belonged in the 16th century to several families in the parish of Benenden, Kent; among later owners are Thomas Fuller, M.D., Archibald, 11th Earl of Eglinton, and Sir Charles Montolieu Lamb. It is in the original binding of wooden boards, covered with stamped leather.

(Small Folio. 129 folios).

ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE SONGS.

To leve alone comfort ys none
But mornyng more and more
My awne tru hart hath made me smart
Whyche grevyth me passyng sore.

I may complayne and nothyng fayne
To God of my lady
Wythoute grete unryght out of hur syght
She hath exylyde me.

Hur to dysplease my lyf to lease
Never shall tyll I dye
How be hyt in payne I am sertayne
And beryth hyt paciently.

And so I wyll contynew styll
Wherever I ryde or goo
I cannot chewse nor yet refewse
To love hur and no mo.

One and no mo why say ye soo?

O thus ys the skyl.....

Few yerys agoo I promysyd soo

For to be tru h.....

Kytt hathe lost hur key hur key Goode Kytt hath lost hur key She ys soo sory for the cause She wottes not what to say.

Kytt she wept I axyde why soo
That she made all thys mone
She sayde alas I am soo woo
My key ys lost and gone.

Kyt she wept and cryede one hye
And fore hur key dyd axe
She be heyght to seynt sythe a key
And offryde to hym a key of wexe.

Kyt why dyd ye losse your key?

Fore sothe ye were to blame

Now ev'y man to yow wyll say

Kyt lossekey ys youre name.

Kyt she wept and cryed alas,

Hur key she cowde not fynde
In faythe I trow yn bour' she was
W't sum that were not kende.

Now farewell Kytt I can no more
I wot not what to say
But I shall pay to Gode therefore
That you may fynde yo' key.

A the syghes that come fro my hert They greve me passyng sore Syth I must fro my love depart Farewell my Joye fore evermore.

Oft to me wyth hur goodly face
She was wont to cast an eye
And now absence to me in place
Alas! for woo I dye I dye.

I was wonte hur to beholde
And takyn in armes twayne
And now wyth syghes manyfolde
Farewell my Joye and welcome payne.

A! mythynke that I se hur yett
As wolde to Gode that I myght
There myght no joyes compare wyth hyt
Unto my hart to make hyt lyght.

Though that she can not redresse
Nor helpe me off my smerte
Yet sure hyt comyth of gentylnesse
That pytyeth a mornynge hert.

O fortune cruell and pervers
What aylyth the at me
All my plesure thow dost revers
Into Adversite.

Alas I love a goodly one
But I cannot attayne
Unto hur love but lyve alone
For fere of fals dysdayne

To have hur love I thenke me sure
Yf that she durst consent
Hyt ys to hur a displesure
To se my love mysspentt.

O Cupyd the god of love

Now helpe me at my nede

The hartes of them for to remove

That lettyth me to spede.

Woo worth fortune my sortall foo That art soo rude to me To turne my joy in care and woo That my comfort sholde be. In May that lusty sesoun to geder

The flours downe by the medows grene
The byrdys sang on euery syde so meryly
It ioyed my hart they toyned so dene
The nyghtyngale sang on hie ioyfully
So merely among the thornys kene.

The lytyll prety nyghtyngale
Among the leuys grene
I wolde I were wyth hur all nyght
But yet ye wote not whome I mene.

The nyghtynggale sat one a brere
Among the thornys sherpe and keyne
And comfort me wyth mery chere
But yet ye wot not home I mene.

She dyd apere all on hur keynde
A lady ryght well be seyng
With wordys of loff tolde me hur mynde
But yet ye wot not whome I mene.

Hyt dyd me goode apone hur to loke Hur corse was closyd all in grene Away fro me hur hert she toke But yet ye wot not whome I mene.

Lady I cryed wyth rufull mone
Have mynd of me that true hath bene
For I loue none but you alone
But yet ye wot not whome I mene.





INDEX TO THE THREE MSS.

Ambrose (John), Roy. App*. 58, f. 146.

Aston (Hugh), Roy. App*. 58, f. 426.

Banastir (Gilbert), 5465, f. 90b.

Browne (—), 5465, ff. 66b, 86b, 102b.

Cooper (—), Doctor, 5465, ff. 19, 25; 31922, ff. 22, 65b, 67b.

CORNISH (William), junior, 5465, ff. 76b, 109b. 114b; 31922, passim.

Daggere (William), 31922, f. 25.

Davy (Richard), 5465, ff. 21, 95*b*, 99*b*, 106*b*.

Drake (Ralph), Roy. Appx. 58, f. 22b.

Dunstable (John), 31922, f. 25.

FAIRFAX (Robert), 5465, ff. 21b, 39b—44, 46b; 31922, ff. 57b, 120b.

FARTHING (Thomas), 31922, ff. 24*b*—26, 29*b*, 33*b*, 44*b*, 62*b*.

FLUYD (John), 31922, f. 796.

Hamshere (—), 5465, f. 16.

HENRY VIII., 31922, passim.

NEWARK (William), 565, ff. 4b, 6b, 8b, 15, 33b—39.

Parker (—), Monk, of Stratford, Roy. App^x. 58, f. 14b.

PHELIPPS (Sir Thomas), 5465, f. 53b.

Русотт (—), 31922, f. 112b.

RYSBYE (—), 31922, f. 276.

Sheringham (—), 5465, ff. 9*b*, 80*b*.

Turges (Edmund), 5465, ff. 266, 286, 1176, 1286.

Tutor (—), 5465, f. 516.



SONGS.

KITT HATH LOST HER KYE, Royal App. 58, Anon	·	•	•	page	Ι
Alone I Live, Add. 31922, by Dr. Cooper		•	•	,,	3
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THE LITTLE PRETTY NIGHTINGALE, Royal App. 58, Anon.	•		•	,,	8

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Though that she cannot redress, Royal App. 58, Anon. .

Ан тне Sighs, Royal App. 58, by W. Cornish, Junior.

Kitt hath lost her kye.

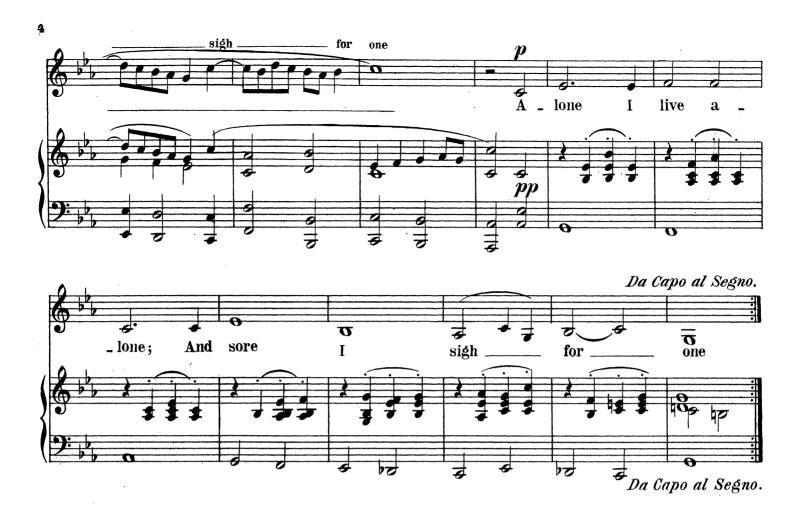






Alone I live.









In May, that lusty season.





The nightingale.





Though that she cannot redress.



Ah! the sighs.





MADRIGALS.

Jolly Rutterkin, Add. 5465, by Wm. Cornish, junior	•	page	Ι
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I Love, I Love, and whom Love ve, Add. 5465, by Sir Thos. Phillips		,,	27
IF LOVE NOW REIGNED (Instrumental), Add. 31922, by King Henry VIII.	•	,,	31

The Time-Signature indicates \(\frac{3}{4}\) or three semibreves, the semibreve being the unit or beat-note. The Compressed Score is in \(\frac{3}{2}\) or modern three-minim time, the minim being the beat-note.







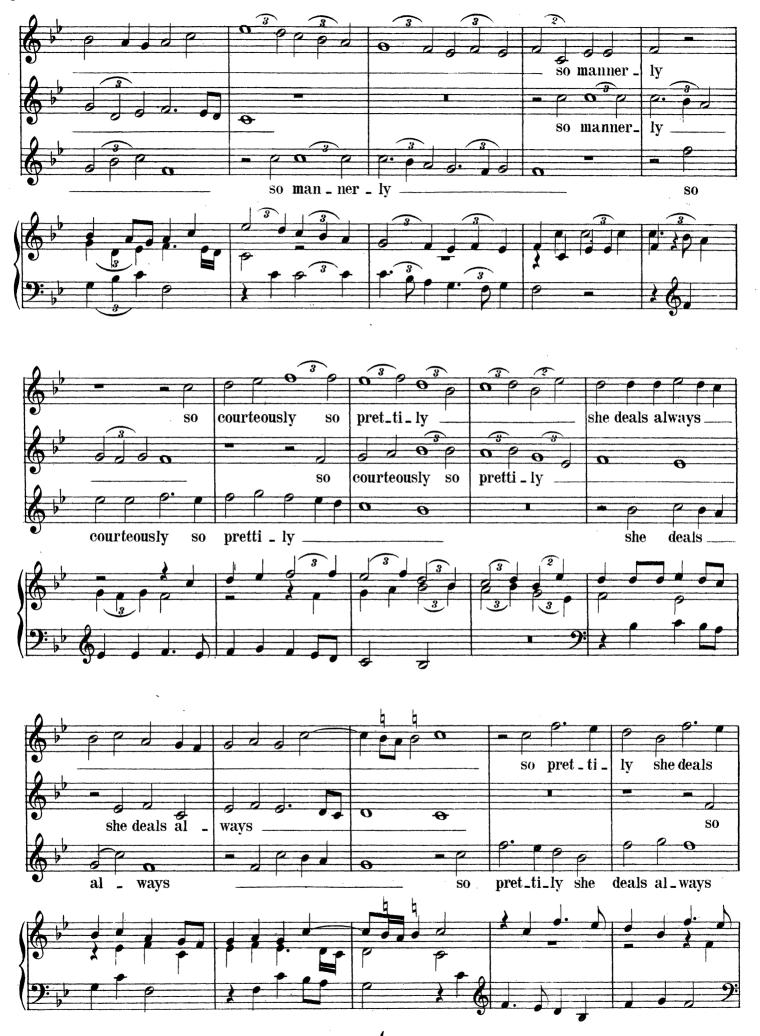


Margaret meek



















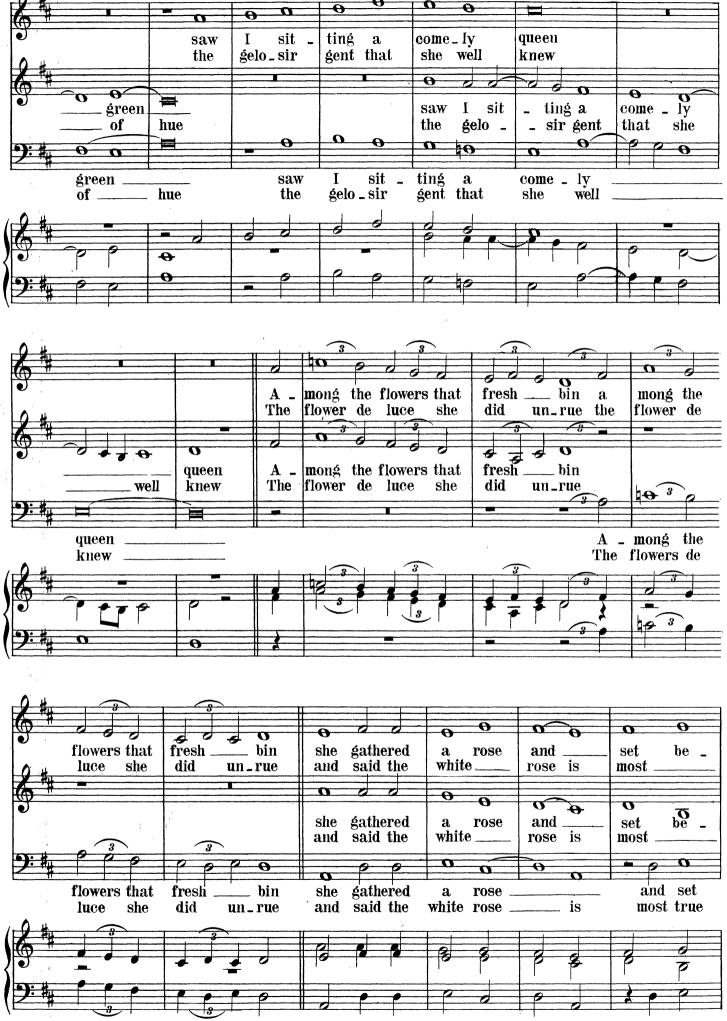














The farther I go.



* For Violoncello.







I love, loved, and loved would I be.











I love, I love, and whom love ye?













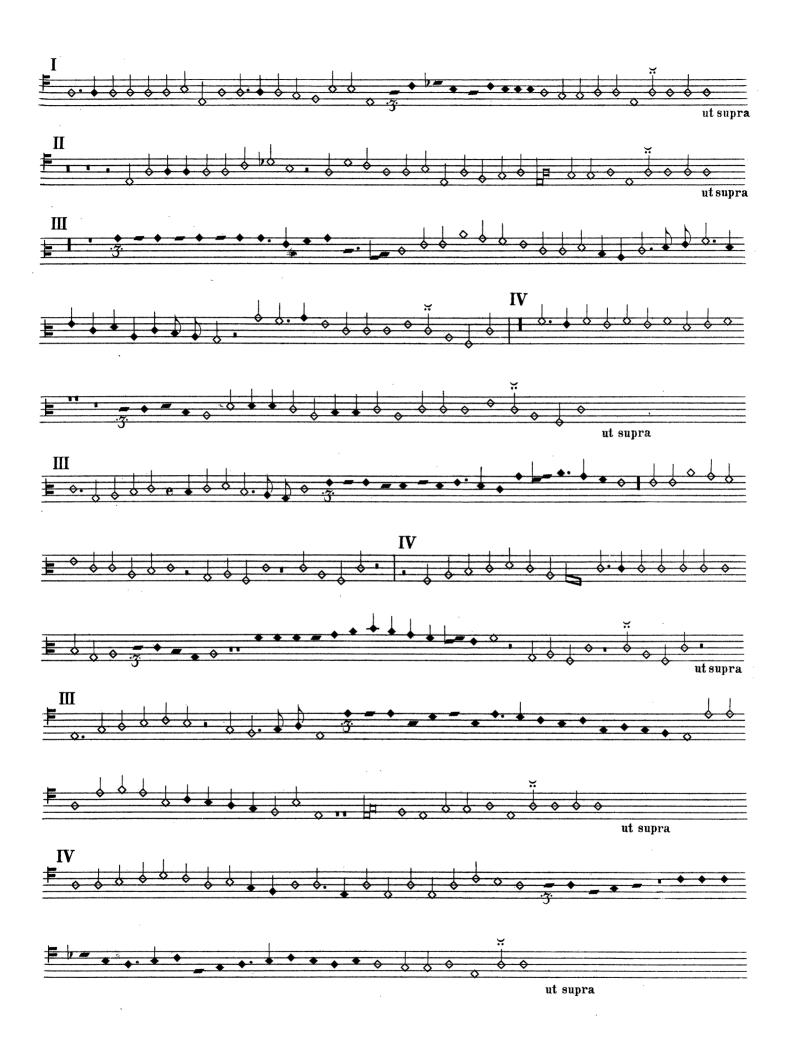
If love now reigned.



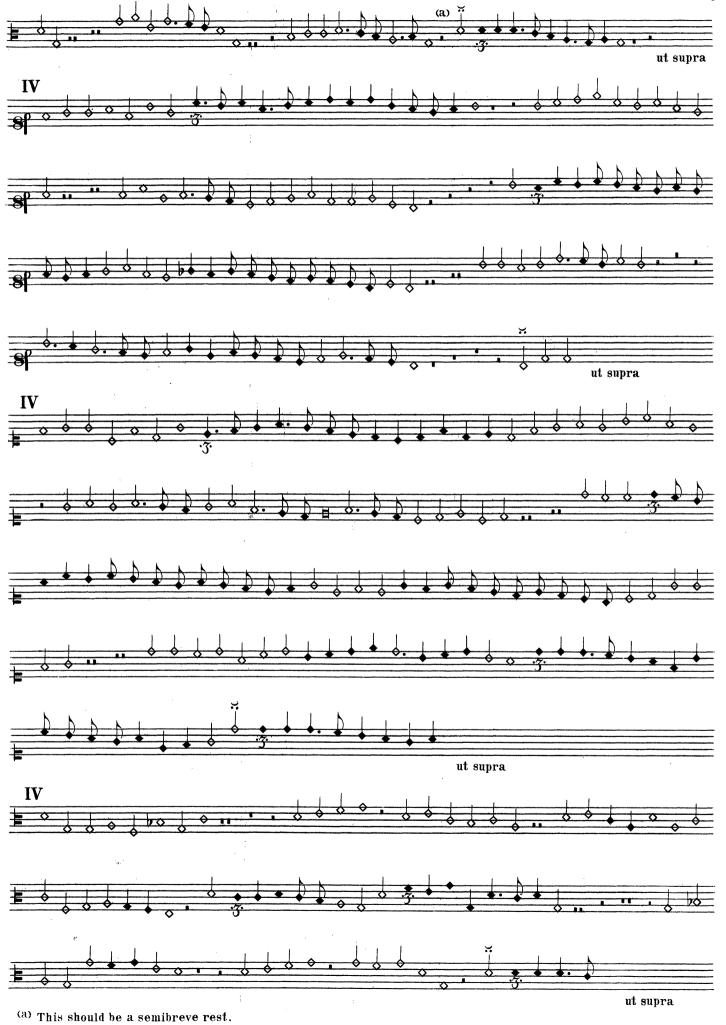
Jolly Rutterkin.

Wm. Cornish Jr

⁽a) This note should apparently be hollow. (b) The flat must be a mistake and intended for the B.







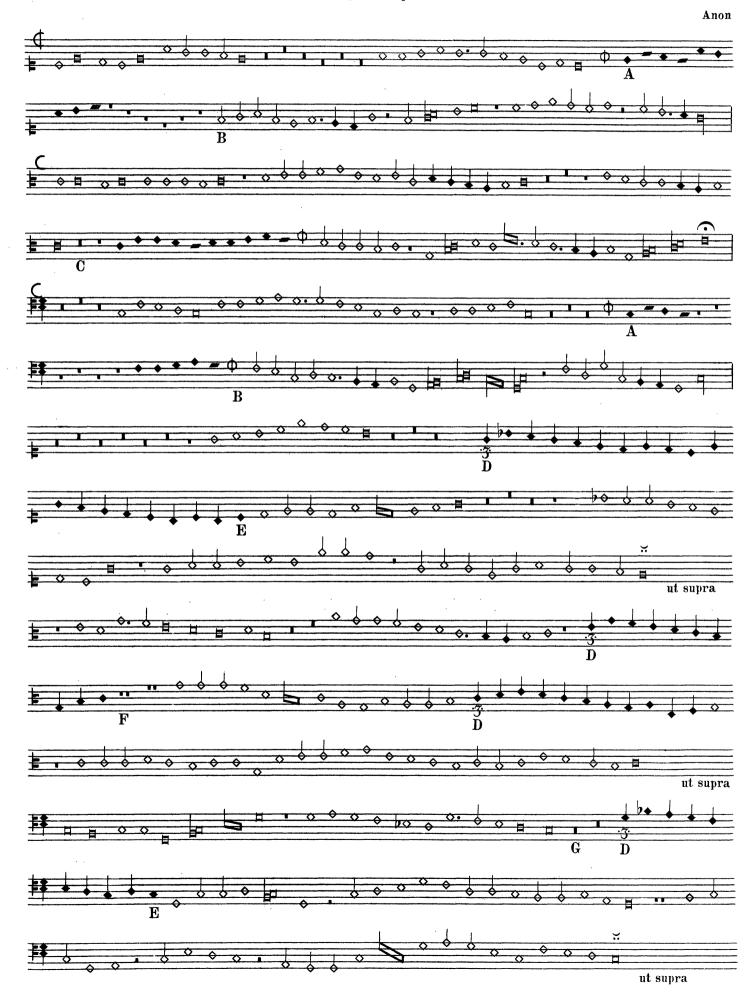
I love, loved, and loved would I be.

I love, I love and whom love ye?

Sir Thomas Phillips

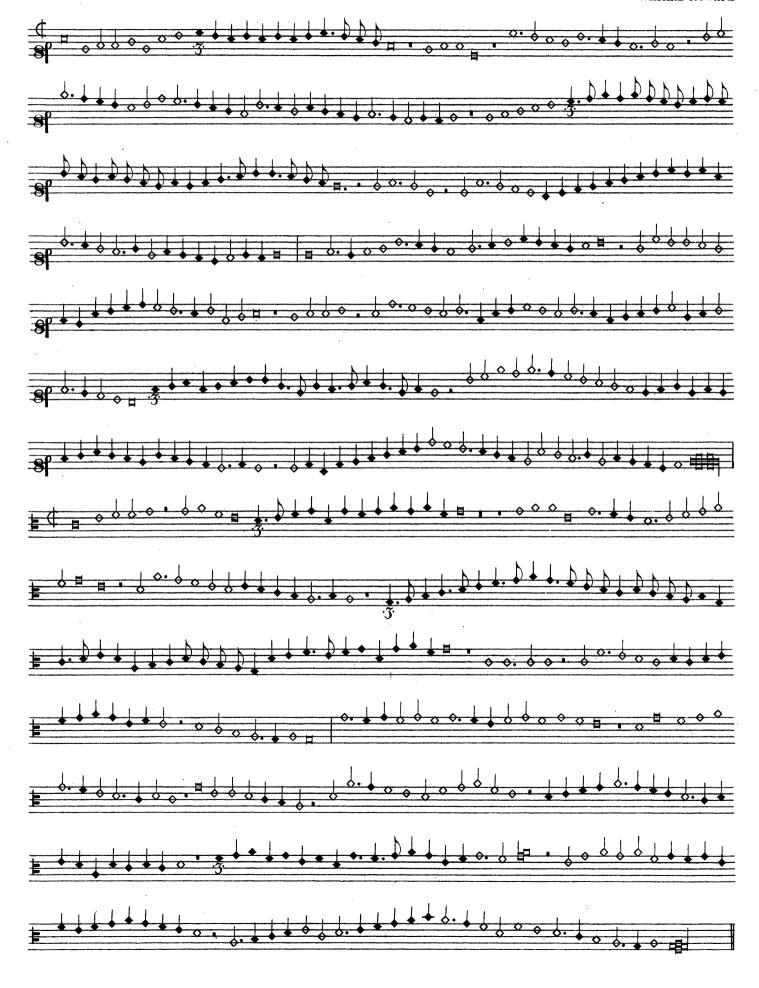
⁽a) two semibreve rests are apparently omilted in the $m.\ S.$

This day day dawns.

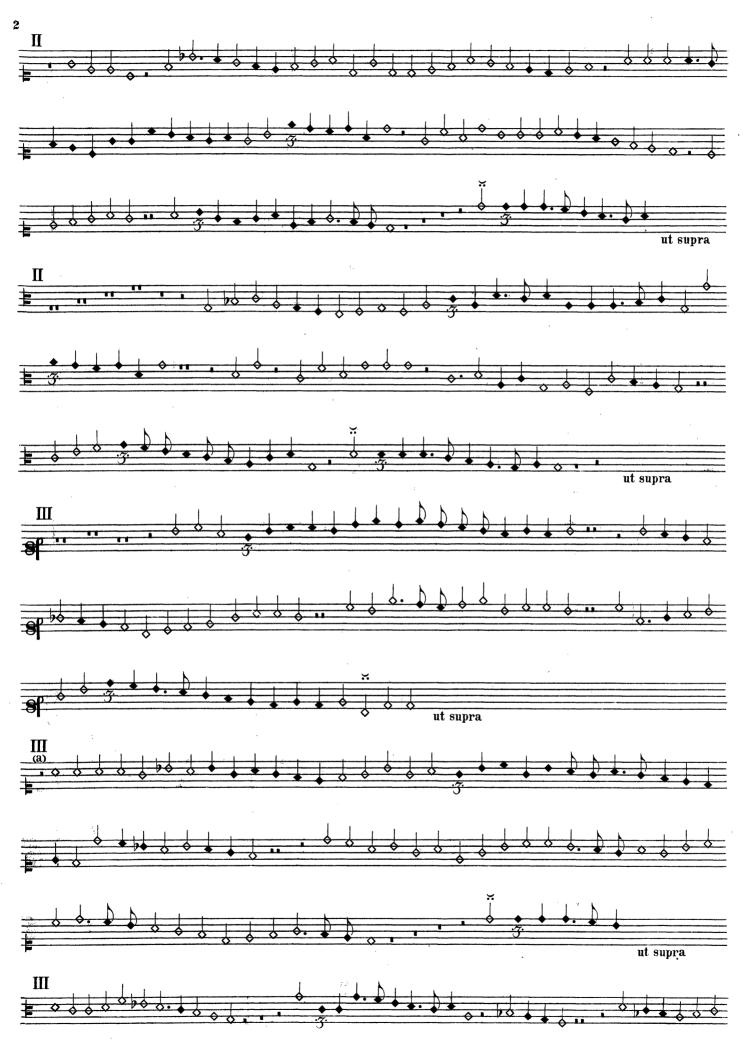


The farther I go

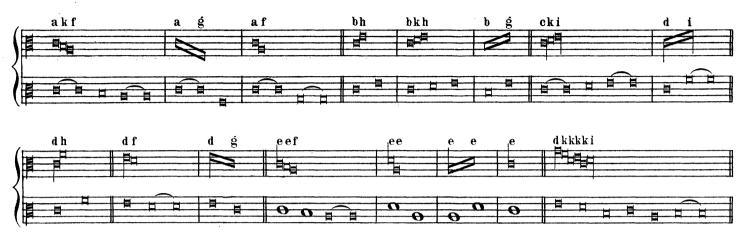
William Newark



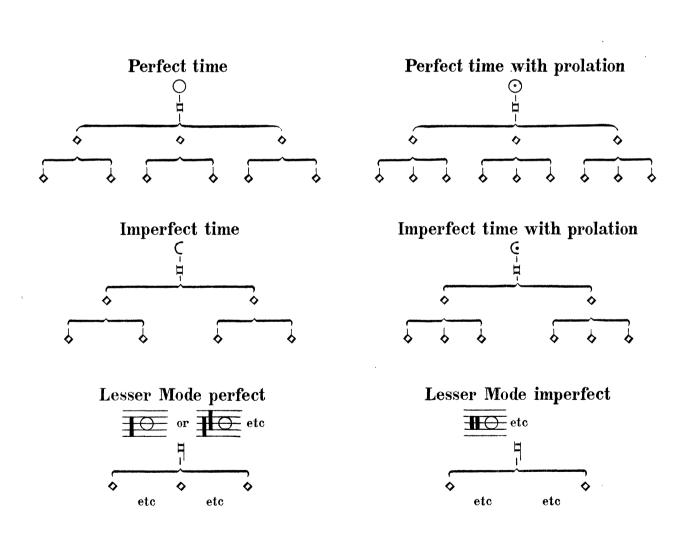
Margaret meek.



Values of notes in the Ligatures



Note. In the above the tied Breves are to be considered as the equivalent of a Long \neg in the Lesser Mode imperfect



Greater Mode perfect

etc

etc

etc

etc

